

Southwest Sailor



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Veteran's Day Celebration in Orange, Tx.....	1,11-12
New Non-prior Service Program gets under-way.....	4-5
Seventh Fleet Shipboard Training.....	7
Lawyers on the Internet.....	10
Name the Magazine Contest.....	10

The Newsletter of Navy information for COMNAVRESREDCOM South members and their families

Orange's Memory Runs Deep And Its Pride Runs Strong

In its heyday, Orange, TX was a booming Navy town teeming with 20,000 shipyard workers who built 132 warships and 106 landing craft in six years. That was nearly 60 years ago. Today, Orange is a quiet Southern town with about 19,000 people. The ships are all gone, and the Navy presence has shrunk to a Reserve Center with 16 acres on the bank of the Sabine River, one pier, and 168 personnel counting the drilling reservists. But the town's memory runs deep and its affinity for the Navy runs strong.

Many of Orange's residents are veterans of WWII and children of veterans. So when the previous commanding officer of Naval Reserve Center, Orange approached the town's leaders with the idea of a "Celebration of Freedom" on Veteran's Day, to coincide with the groundbreaking ceremony for the WWII memorial in Washington, DC, they readily agreed to participate. What developed was a celebration of such magnitude as to recall the glory days of Orange.

The day dawned cold and crisp on the men from the county jail inflating 5,000 red, white and blue balloons. At 5:00 am at the Reserve Center, work had begun at a frenzied pace, induced by the pressure of myriad last minute details. Downtown four hours later, an Army color guard from Ft. Polk stepped off, followed by a line of Humvees filled with local and military dignitaries, marching bands, emergency vehicles with blaring sirens, floats of school children, Shriners in their little go-carts, and horses and riders decked out in their best finery. Along the two-mile parade route hundreds of spectators, many of them wearing old military covers and ribbons,

waved and cheered. The parade ended an hour later at Pier Road, near the Reserve Center.

At the Reserve Center, the sailors were eagerly awaiting their guests, anxious to show them what the Navy in Orange does today. They did not have to wait long. Within minutes of the parade ending, busloads of people began to pour on to the Center's grounds. For more than an hour the crowds

reenlistment, frocking and award presentation were held. The crowd rose to their feet in a standing ovation when Signalman First Class John Alan Coggins received his purple heart...56 years after being pierced by shrapnel in his arms and legs and continuing to desperately fight to save his ship.

The celebration was the largest Veteran's Day celebration in Orange County's history.



A banner carried in the parade by local school children sums up the attitude and atmosphere of the day's celebration. Photo by Gerald Burleigh

With our nation's WWII veterans now dying at a rate of 1,000 a day, it was fitting for Orange, a town with a strong history of military support, to so thoroughly celebrate and honor the men and women of that era, along with the veterans of Korea and Vietnam and those serving today. Senator Bernsen reminded those listening that "freedom is never free." It is "paid for by the blood, sweat and tears of all veterans who go forth and represent America by making the sacrifices for us

were given demonstrations of line splicing, cargo handling, and life in the field with the Seabees. There was an Army helicopter to explore, fire engines to sit in, and ships to visit. Shortly before 11:30, two F-16s from the Air National Guard roared overhead and were enthusiastically applauded. Then it was on to the rest of the official celebration. On hand to speak were Texas Senator David Bernsen, retired Army Brigadier General Mike Cokinos, Mine Warfare Commander Rear Admiral Jose Luis Betancourt, Jr., and NRC Orange's commanding officer Lieutenant Commander Darlene Bennett. Naval history and ceremonies were demonstrated and explained as the dignitaries were piped on to the stage, and a

all."

LCDR Bennett, who assumed command of NRC Orange only three months before Veteran's Day, poured herself into making the celebration a success. "Too often Veteran's Day becomes just another day on the calendar, one more federal holiday in a multitude of holidays," Bennett explained. "I cannot let this day be just another day."

From the outpouring of emotion and patriotic support in Orange, it is safe to say that Veteran's Day 2000 was not "just another day", but was instead a day that will be remembered and treasured by the veterans who were honored there.

For more photos of Orange's Veteran's Day celebration, see pages 11-12.

Safety Doesn't Just Happen, It Takes Planning

Rear Adm. J.N.H. Costas
Commander, CNRRC REG 11



It's hard to believe another year is almost over and the holidays are rapidly approaching! Like many of you, I'm feeling the pressure that builds at this time of year. There are presents to be bought, decorating to be done, parties to attend and end-of-the year work deadlines. It's easy to become distracted and rushed, but even a moment's inattention can have disastrous results. We need to stop and reassess our priorities, our goals and our expectations.

Similar to our Operation Risk Management tool, the Air National Guard has developed an evaluation tool called Culture Workshop. It is used to evaluate risk, or safety issues, but has other ramifications as well, some of which we can use at home. Both ORM and the Culture Workshop require us to take a hard look at what we do, why we do what we do, and how we do it. ORM basically boils down to "think before you act." We must evaluate the risk of whatever we are planning to do, and then determine if the action is worth the risk. For example, you want to hang lights on the edge of your roof. If the roof is dry, you have a sturdy, adequately sized ladder and other necessary equipment, someone is there to help you, you are in good physical shape and well rested, and heights don't make you dizzy, the risk is probably minimal. The action (hanging lights) and outcome (spouse is happy, house looks great, neighbors are impressed) is probably worth the risk (slight chance of bodily injury from falling off ladder). However, if you had a late night out filled with imbibing party spirits, it's icy and wet outside, the ladder is too short, and you are irritated because your spouse has been bugging you about getting the lights up, your risk level just skyrocketed! ORM would say don't hang the lights that day because the potential risk outweighs the potential benefit. It would be hard to enjoy your lights from your hospital bed.

Most safety is simple, but essential. We cannot control the drunk driving down the road that may hit us, but we can control whether or not we are wearing our seatbelts, our speed, and our level of alertness. There are accidents that are beyond our control, but many accidents are preventable, and these are within our control.

The Culture Workshop is designed to evaluate the "culture" of a command. Culture in this context refers to the atmosphere, the belief systems, and the perceptions that govern the way a command does their business. How does the command run its business day to day? A good culture is founded on three elements – trust, leadership and integrity. Good culture is imperative for safety. The three elements are closely tied together. Integrity means doing the right thing all the time, even when no one is watching. If there is

integrity among the command members, then there can be trust. If you are a pilot climbing into your plane, you need to be able to trust that the mechanics have integrity. Your life and safety depend on the men and women who service the plane doing the right thing. You need to be able to trust that they didn't cut any corners, they weren't in such a hurry that they let something slide, and that they had the integrity to expose any shortcomings or mistakes they may have found while working on the plane. Likewise, if you are a passenger on that plane, you must trust the pilot. Integrity and trust are inextricably woven together. The third element, leadership, impacts the other two. The leader should set the example for integrity and trust. If the leader does not exhibit integrity, why should anyone else? If the leadership indicates that cutting corners is acceptable, that is what will be done by most of the rest of the command. Leadership begins at the top, but it does not end there. Good leadership requires integrity, and if we have integrity, we are all leaders to someone else through our example.

So, as we enter this holiday season, let's take time to evaluate ourselves. What pressures are we putting on ourselves that may drive us to take an unacceptable risk? What perceptions and expectations do we have that we think we must live up to? Take a step back from all the pressure building and ask yourself, "What must I absolutely do, and what is not actually essential?" You may absolutely have to go to your parents' home for the holidays, but is it essential that you drive 18 hours straight through? When we get distracted by other things in our life – worries, expectations, pressures – accidents happen. Let's have as safe a holiday season as we can possibly make it!

From our household to yours, hope each and everyone of you has a safe and happy holiday season!

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Now Is The Time To Reflect And The Time To Look Ahead

By YNCM(SW) Roger McFann,
CNRRC REG ELEVEN CMC

Happy Holidays! I would like to extend to you and yours a very happy season as we all prepare to start the new year. As the year draws to a close, it always seems like our professional lives slow down a little at work or school, and our personal lives get more hectic and fast paced. Getting ready for the holidays can get very busy with



shopping, parties, family visits, etc. Please take a moment to reflect on the past year and take pride in your accomplishments. Due to your efforts and hard work, our REDCOM closes out another successful year and is prepared to charge into 2001. We have had several new personnel report this year and they have brought a wealth of talent to our staff. Our goal is to provide you the best possible customer service possible.

I would like to echo my message from a year ago when I asked each of you to be proactive

in planning your career and taking care of those Sailors in your charge. We are in the war-fighting business, but we're also in the people business. Please take the time to get to know your people. Are they ready for advancement? Have they completed their required leadership course? Do they have an AT scheduled? Remember, when you take care of your Sailors, your Sailors will take care of you.

As the new year begins, I look forward to working for and with each of you. Again, enjoy the holiday season and be safe - we need to see you back next year!

A Word From The REDCOM Career Counselor

I want to start by saying I feel very privileged to be working with the center and unit career counselors of Readiness Command South. From the phone conversations we've had, it is notable that we have a great team. I am looking forward to our meeting at the CMC/CCC conference on 9 and 10 January 2001. All FTS and Selres career counselors are requested to attend. If you have not made your reservations, let me know in order to reserve your room.

Our number one objective is "Taking care of our people". Below are some of the most recent tools available for our use:
www.navres.navresfor/n1/retention.html

This is an great website for career counselors, includes:
--CO's Toolbox-information on how to retain our Sailors
--Flags and Letters-how to order for retirements, etc.
--Retirement Calculator-Reserve Retirement pay after age 60
--SelRes Retention Reports-download your own and compare to other centers and units.

TIME-IN-RATE WAIVERS

NAVADMIN 221/00 authorizes E5 and E6 personnel with two years time in rate (TIR) and an Early Promote recommendation on their current evaluation, a TIR waiver to take the advancement exam early. Units wishing to grant any waivers are required to submit a letter with name, rate, SSN, test rate and a statement regarding the member being granted a waiver per NAVADMIN 221/00 to their respective exam coordinators.

NON-RESIDENT TRAINING COURSES

Encourage All Hands to continue to do as many courses as

possible. All courses completed with a passing score of 3.2 and above are eligible for retirement point credit. A course completion letter and page 4 entry are required for all courses turned in.

REENLISTMENTS AND EXTENSIONS

Remind Unit Career Counselors to submit member's requests not less than 60 days prior to EOS to ensure required paperwork is accurate and avoid pay problems.

E8/E9 SELECTION BOARD

The Selection Board for advancement to Senior and Master Chief Petty Officer convenes 12FEB01. Correspondence to the board must be postmarked or scanned and emailed to P862C11@persnet.navy.mil or P862C@persnet.navy.mil NLT 15JAN01. To ensure the board received the package, member should check the Pers 862 home page at www.bupers.navy.mil/p862/p862.htm.

NAVAL RESERVE CAREER DECISION SURVEY

NAVADMIN 33/00 announces a retention survey for 100% of drilling reservists to be completed by 28FEB01. It is an online questionnaire located at <http://reservesurvey.nprdc.navy.mil>. I suggest tracking by having the member bring the last page as proof of completion.

I am here to support you. Please feel free to email or call for any questions you may have. Let's work together to make REDCOM South the best region throughout the Surface Reserve Force.

NCC (AW) Amy Hazel is Readiness Command South's new career counselor. She can be reached by phone at 817-782-6679, DSN 739-6679 or e-mail at hazela@cnrf.nola.navy.mil

New Non-Prior Service Program Closing Training Gap

By JO1 Ron D. Smith, USNR
NR NIB Det. 411, OKC

They've come from all over the country. The majority of them have never been exposed to military life. The only experience they've ever had with the Navy has been what they've been taught in their Reserve Centers over the brief four to six months since they enlisted. In real time, that means that these Reservists have only had 8 to 12 days of *actual Navy experience*. They've just arrived at the Recruit Training Command (RTC), Great Lakes, Illinois for the Non-Prior Service Accession Course (NPSAC).

"Get off the bus!" Shouts the Recruit Division



Non-Prior-Service Recruits from all over the country scramble for their gear shortly after their arrival for Phase III training at Recruit Training Center, Great Lakes, in August 2000. Photo by JO1 Ron Smith

Commander (RDC) in a loud commanding voice. "Move it people! Eyes to the front! We only have two weeks to turn you into Sailors and the clock is ticking! Now, **MOVE!!**"

The Naval Reserve's NPSAC is a world apart from

the old Advanced Paygrade Indoctrination Course (APG) formerly conducted in New Orleans. Now held at RTC Great Lakes, all Reservists without prior military service are getting a taste of the same training that their active-duty counterparts receive. While not a full-blown boot camp, it still covers all of the essential training elements that the Reservist needs to be a successful, participating member of the Navy.

In order to accomplish the Reserve mission in support of the active-duty fleet, more Reservists with civilian skills that the Navy needs are being brought on board. About 30 percent of these Reservists have had no military experience. Under the old APG program, non-prior service Reservists were at a disadvantage in meeting all of the requirements for military customs, courtesies, battle readiness and the Navy's more demanding physical standards. Department of Defense and Secretary of the Navy evaluations determined the APG program to be insufficient in meeting active-duty equivalency standards. After a pilot program, NPSAC was born in April 2000.

"What we have to keep in mind is that most of these people don't have to be here," said Lieutenant Jeffrey Knuth, Officer in Charge of the NPSAC Training Program, Great Lakes. "They're here because they have something to bring to the Navy, and they're here because they want to contribute something in the service of their country. All of us, from a training perspective, have both a responsibility and an obligation to give them our best."

"These people have no idea what to expect when they come to the Reserve. It's up to those of us in charge to help them succeed and grow. They're motivated, and they're proud to play a part in the Navy. They need our support at the unit level, the Reserve Center level and here at Great Lakes. We can't afford to drop the ball...that just isn't an option," Lt. Knuth continued.

"It's necessary training," said SK2 Scott Appleby, a NPSAC Recruit attached to MSCO Japan, Detachment 111 of Naval Reserve Center Oklahoma City. "I was prior-service and it *still* made a difference for me. I can't even begin to imagine how much more it means to those with no prior-service experience! In my opinion, as the program matures, and the communication between Reserve Centers and Great Lakes becomes more frequent, this will be one of the most valuable assets to the active-duty fleet that the Navy has."

The NPSAC training at Great Lakes is Phase III of a four-phase program designed to more adequately prepare non-prior service Reservists for realistic participation in Naval careers and missions. The training program is both mentally and physically challenging. The Reservists who arrive prepared and informed are generally the most successful recruits.

In-Processing at Great Lakes is rigorous. Check-in, reviewing records, shuffling orders and travel claims, orientation of what's expected of the recruit and what the recruit can expect in return, *everything has to be in order*. If the work has been done properly at the Reserve Center level in

Phases I and II, the training process runs smoothly. RTC Great Lakes trains roughly 66,000 active-duty recruits a year.

Quotas for NPSAC run about 3,000 a year. The interactive responsibility and the workload is formidable.

"It's a tight schedule," say Chief Aviation Electronics Technician Julio Rodriguez, a NPSAC Recruit Division Commander. "When people arrive with proper uniforms, regulation haircuts, and physically qualified for duty, training generally runs according to plan."

The normal day begins with reveille at 0400 hours,



Senior Chief Personnelman David Rudd, Leading Chief Petty Officer of the Non-Prior Service Accession Program at Great Lakes Training Center, gives preparatory instruction to new recruits who are settling in shortly after arrival at RTC Great Lakes. Their first full day of orientation will begin the next day at 0400 hours. Photo by JO1 Ron Smith

followed by physical training at 0430. From that point, daily routines will vary with an itinerary that covers enlisted rank-rate recognition, Third Class swim qualifications, Navy Core Values, close order drill, and uniform and grooming stands. Seabag inspections, fire-fighting and basic damage control evolutions, Navy customs and courtesies and marlinspike seamanship training just skim the surface of a training list that seems impossible to achieve in a two-week period. When all is said and done, the NPSAC recruit will have put in a day that begins at 0400 and ends at 2100.

Reserve Center commands and Reserve Center NPSAC coordinators are encouraged to be straightforward and supportive of members in preparing recruits for their evolution at Great Lakes Training Center. The two-week training program is taught in a boot camp environment unlike the old APG program in New Orleans. And while it is not the nine-week boot camp that active-duty recruits receive, it is every bit as challenging, day-for-day, for a training course of its duration; in short, an honest, in-your-face orientation to Navy life, missions and acceptance of responsibility.

"On sight, it would be tough for you to tell them apart from the active-duty recruits," says Chief Rodriguez. "There are only a few differences other than the length of the course, and they have every right to be proud of themselves when graduation day comes. They learn about what it means to be good Sailors and being there for their shipmates...and, about getting the job done!"

To prepare newly affiliated Reservists with the skills and knowledge necessary to function in the Naval service, NPSAC is a shared responsibility between NPSAC training staff of Great Lakes and the recruits' home Reserve Centers. Reserve Center NPS Coordinator Training Conferences have been initiated by NPSAC Great Lakes to address training issues and to help establish a more even

exchange of information between Great Lakes Training Center and the nation's Reserve commands. The conferences are expected to take place about three or four times each fiscal year.

Master Chief Personnelman Larry Watson, NPSAC Coordinator for



SK2 Scott Appleby of Naval Reserve Center Oklahoma City prepares for his seabag inspection. Reservists now benefit from a healthy two-week exposure to the rigors of boot camp. Although shorter in length, the course is every bit as challenging day-for-day as that of active-duty recruits. Photo by JO1 Ron Smith

Reserve Center Oklahoma City, was one of the attendees at a recent NPS Coordinator Conference held at NPSAC Great Lakes in August. Watson was among a large contingency of NPSAC Coordinators from regional district commands and Reserve Centers across the country.

"We have a great group of instructors in Oklahoma City headed by BM1 Danny Blackshear," Watson said. "When we put the word out that we needed instructors, we were awestruck by the response! The program is still relatively new, but I feel like we're making positive progress. We currently have 10 instructors, all volunteers, and a broad talent pool to draw from. The Reserve Center command has gone the extra mile to support us in the effort, and I feel like the program is going to make a tremendous difference for our new, non-prior service Reservists."

With the support of the home Reserve Center, NPS Coordinators are responsible for ensuring Phase I

NPSAC Indoctrination and Phase II Pre-NPSAC Training have been completed prior to scheduling Reservists for Phase III at NPSAC Great Lakes. A vigorous ongoing physical readiness program is suggested along with positive mental preparation and reinforcement of all non-prior service Reservists. Of high priority is the completion of the member's mobilization training requirements. The first Annual Training (AT) will be at NPSAC Great Lakes and care should be taken to schedule the second AT so that the assignment chosen will provide continuing skill enhancement training. A thorough "Non-Prior Service Accession Course Annual Training Checkout Screening" should be conducted prior to scheduling of the first AT at NPSAC Great Lakes (see COMNAVRESFORINST 3500.13 pages 9-11). Upon return from Great Lakes, NPSAC graduates will then complete Phase IV training (Post-NPSAC training), and go on to become productive, functioning members in the overall Reserve mission picture.

All unit officers and senior petty officers can assist in the orientation efforts of new personnel by acquainting themselves with the guidelines set forth in COMNAVRESFORINST 3500.13. Additional guidance may be acquired through communication with local Reserve Center coordinators and/or training offices.

According to the established standards, a non-prior service member may not be assigned outside the United States (OUTCONUS), its territories or possessions, unless that member has completed the NPSAC course *and* performed 72 actual calendar days of service, (not the two-part daily drill) for a minimum of 84 days. In other words, the regular drill weekend will account for two actual calendar days toward the 84 day total. No exceptions will be authorized without Echelon III approval. (See COMNAVRESFORINST 3500.13 for detailed instructions).

SEVENTH Fleet Shipboard Training Comes to Texas

By JO2 Eric Millham

NRC Fort Worth

One of the most difficult things for a reservist to earn is their Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) designation. Naval Reserve Center Fort Worth based NR COM 7th FLT DET 111 has found a way to make it easier for its enlisted sailors to do just that. Since damage control is one of the most time consuming parts of the ESWS qualifications to complete, active duty personnel from USS Blue Ridge (LCC-19), the 7th Fleet Flagship, flew to Fort Worth from their homeport of Yokosuka, Japan to provide damage control training to DET 111's enlisted personnel.

The unit's goal is to have all classroom based damage control training completed before they deploy to Blue Ridge as part of the Ulchi Focus Lense (UFL) exercise. DET 111's commanding officer, CAPT John Hayden, said reserve sailors "don't have a lot of time to get these qualifications done. My intent is at the conclusion of UFL, we'll have a number of folks on the Blue Ridge, and I'd like to see a number of them come back with the (ESWS) qualification that will be aided on by this training." He describes this training as a "reverse IDTT."

The active duty side was very willing to work with the unit to make the training happen. DET 111's executive officer, CAPT Dan Mastagini, appreciates the support of the XO of the Blue Ridge, who is from the DFW area. He was "100% for it."

The two trainers from the Blue Ridge felt the training was helpful for the reservists who participated. One of the trainers was DCC(SW) Chris Hunt, the damage control chief from the Blue Ridge. He said, "I think this is a great deal. Now, when the reservist comes on board, they'll feel more comfortable." Because anyone aboard a ship may have to fight a fire, Hunt feels, "It is the entire ship's job to know damage control. They need to know what they are doing." Damage control training is very time consuming, even for active duty personnel.

Chief Hunt is aware of this and the fact that damage control instructors aren't available all the time. He wants to make damage control training more accessible to all sailors, no

matter what shift they work. "I developed a damage control web page aboard the ship so people can access it 24 hours a day. He is getting positive feedback about the web site from damage control personnel throughout the fleet and feels "the internet is under utilized for Naval training purposes." DET 111's ESWS coordinator, QMC Mike Brooks, said, "The DC web page makes it (training) a lot easier." Hunt has also developed a Power Point presentation that people can use for conducting training.

Assisting Chief Hunt from Blue Ridge was DC3 Paul Green. He said people in the DC rate are "responsible for training the ship's crew in damage control." Of the reservists, Green said "a lot of them haven't had a chance to have this type of training. They're a lot more tentative" than active duty

sailors. He felt his students were "real into it, real interested" in damage control training. He said that when reservists come on board for UFL training they offer three night courses covering different topics of damage control personal qualification standards (PQS).

The opportunity to get a portion of damage control training out of the way before going out to Blue Ridge is appealing. QM1 Curt Mahaffey knows how



DCC(SW) Chris Hunt, the damage control chief from USS Blue Ridge, provides classroom based damage control training to reserve Sailors from COMSEVENTHFLT Det 111.

difficult it can be to complete ESWS training. "It's so much better to get this training here in the classroom. I hope to complete my ESWS qualifications during UFL. To get this training on the ship, I did this training on the ship in December, you're working 12 hours on and 12 hours off and you're trying to get two weeks of training on top of that, it can be done but it's difficult. This type of training allows us to spend more hands on time when we get out on the ship."

DET 111's leaders hope this type of training will continue. Mastagini said they're hoping to offer the training twice a year. Hayden agrees with his XO and says he'd eventually like to see it offered three or four times a year. "It's really a good program we don't use enough."

DET 111's sailors were impressed with the training and appreciate the effort it took to make it happen. "There's a lot of people real enthusiastic about it. They realize there's an opportunity that hasn't always been there. There's a whole lot of people looking to take advantage of it," said Brooks, "We really appreciate that these guys had the time to come over

Reenlisting at NMCRC Waco Requires “Multi-Tasking” Talent

Friday, September 29th was “reenlistment day” at Navy and Marine Corp Reserve Center Waco with two of the full time staff personnel signing on for another hitch. Both of the reenlistments were unique and slightly out of the ordinary as each of the participants wanted to do something special. The first reenlistment saw the Command Chief, BMC (SW) Chuck Roswell, being reenlisted and taking his oath of enlistment from his commanding officer while the command continued with its normally scheduled morning physical training. Following the run, Jody Roswell got to watch it all become official as the paperwork was signed that reenlists her husband for another six years.



Pictured are command members along with BMC (SW) Chuck Roswell, his wife Jody (holding the Bible while running between) and LCDR Al Binford, the Reserve Center commanding officer.



The students of Doris Miller Elementary learn about Navy customs and duty to country when PN2 P. J. Remillard takes the oath of reenlistment in front of his buddies in Mrs. Goodman's fifth-grade class.

Following the morning exercise and a quick shower, command personnel loaded up and proceeded to their Adopt-a-School, Doris Miller Elementary, for the second reenlistment of the day. PN2 P. J. Remillard is an active supporter of the Adopt-a-School program and is a favorite among the school kids of Mrs. Goodman's 5th grade class. With command personnel, teachers, students and family members looking on, Petty Officer Remillard took the oath of enlistment and signed on for an additional five years. Following the formal part of the event, the kids enjoyed cake and punch while the Chief and CO got to field NUMEROUS questions about their Navy careers.

OKC Dignitaries Ride Aboard USS Oklahoma City

By JOC Susan Hammond
NR NIB 411, OKC

Oklahoma City councilmen, metro officials and corporate heads were guests of the crew of the USS Oklahoma City (SSN 723) fast attack nuclear submarine recently for a VIP guest cruise off the coast of Florida.

The USS Oklahoma City and its Commanding Officer, Cmdr. James G. Foggo, hosted the cruise in recognition of the city's support of the namesake submarine and her Sailors. The submarine got underway with 24 metro dignitaries on Dec. 1, and another 24 joined the sub crew on Dec. 4. The guests boarded the submarine from Port Canaveral on Florida's East Coast,

near Cape Canaveral, launching site of the nation's manned space missions.

Cmdr. Foggo said his Sailors are appreciative of the many trips the city has hosted for them since the USS Oklahoma City was commissioned in 1988. The submarine's home port is Norfolk, Va. Local supporters regularly host trips to Oklahoma City for selected Sailors and show them the local food and hospitality. The Oklahoma City Council recently authorized travel to Florida for any of its members who wanted to participate in the guest cruise.

This year the U.S. Navy is celebrating the Centennial anniversary

of the commissioning of its first submarine, the USS Holland (SS-1). The past 100 years have witnessed the evolution of a force that mastered submersible warfare, introduced nuclear propulsion to create the true submarine, and for decades patrolled the deep ocean front line; the hottest part of an otherwise Cold War. The USS Oklahoma City (SSN 723) is among the most technologically advanced vessels ever built. For more information on the U.S. Navy submarines and the Submarine Centennial, go to www.navy.mil and click on the Submarine Centennial button.



A Timeless Lesson For the Holidays From A Time Long Ago

By Capt. Salvatore M.
Stefula, CHC, USNR



This story is taken from Brian Cavanaugh's The Sower's Seeds from Condensed Chicken Soup for the Soul copyright 1966 by Jack Canfield, Mark V. Hansen and Patty Hansen. There is a great message in this story for us as we embark on the Holiday Season.

It was a bitter cold evening in northern Virginia many years ago. The old man's beard was glazed by winter's frost while he waited for a ride across the river. The wait seemed endless. His body became numb and stiff from the frigid north wind. He heard the faint, steady rhythm of approaching hooves galloping along the frozen path. Anxiously, he watched as several horsemen rounded the bend. He let the first one pass by without an effort to get his attention. Then another passed by and another. Finally the last rider neared the spot where the old man sat like a snow statue. As this one drew near, the old man caught the rider's eye and said, "Sir, would you mind giving an old man a ride to the other side? There doesn't appear to be a passageway by foot."

The rider replied, "Yes. Hop on." Seeing that the old man could hardly lift his half frozen body onto the horse, the rider

dismounted and helped him. He was taken not only across the river but to his final destination a few miles away.

As they neared the tiny cozy cottage, the rider asked the old man why he let all the other riders pass him by but didn't hesitate to ask him for a ride. What if I had refused? The old man replied by telling him that he had lived in that part of the country for a long time and he knew people pretty well. He said that he looked into the other riders' eyes and saw that they had no concern for his situation but when he looked into his eyes, kindness and compassion were evident. He continued by telling the rider that he knew that his gentle spirit would welcome the opportunity to give him assistance in his time of need.

Most grateful, the rider said: "May I never get too busy in my own affairs that I fail to respond to the needs of others with kindness and compassion." With that, Thomas Jefferson turned his horse around and made his way back to the White House.

May the challenging message of peace and good will among all people during this time of the year help us to never become so busy with our own lives that we fail to respond to others with kindness and compassion. Have a safe and blessed Holiday. Happy New Year!

Harlingen Reservist Takes His Volunteering Spirit to the Airwaves

By JO1 Lupe Saenz
NRC Harlingen, Texas

Besides volunteering for naval service once a month, some reservists volunteer time to help the community, schools, and public radio. Yes, you read it correctly "public radio."

Just about every Saturday since November 7, 1998, JO1 Lupe Saenz has been on the radio, or as it is known in the business, "ON THE AIR" 10 am -12 noon, broadcasting a program called "Acordeones de Texas," a program that features original South Texas conjunto music.

"It gets a little tedious sometimes but then I love radio. So volunteering to do this program has been and still is lots of fun for me and my brother Fred. And, as long as KMBH Public Radio Station, Harlingen, Texas allows me to do this, I will!" Saenz

said.

What about on drill weekends? Does it interfere?

"No. Because of the capability to do pre-recorded programs. Most of the drill weekends, however, my brother does the program or it's a pre-recorded show," Saenz said.

As a result of these volunteering efforts, the Saenz brothers have raised several thousand dollars in donations for this public station through special membership drives or events.

"Since this is a public radio station, we make extra efforts to pick up radio membership and donations so that we can keep this type and other type of programs on-the-air in the Rio Grande Valley," Saenz added.

In addition, the program's popularity has spread to other parts of

the nation. For example, for over 60 weeks the program was also airing in Waukesha, Wisconsin on WCCX 104.5 FM, KZHR Walla Walla, Washington. Today, the program also airs on KIRT 1580 AM, McAllen, Texas, Sundays 12 noon while it also airs in Cameron, Texas, near Austin, on KMIL 1330 AM. The program can also be accessed on the World Wide Web at www.kmil.com at 5 PM Central Time.

So, next weekend, if you are not drilling and are home working on the garage or yard, tune to KMBH/KHID 88.9 or 88.1 FM, "Public Radio for the Rio Grande Valley Classic 88FM, and enjoy the music. You may be able to recognize the voice of JO1 Saenz as he promotes his favorite type of music, "conjunto regional" in Spanish. Try it! You'll like it!

Mine Warfare Community Looking for New Converts

By JO1 Lupe Saenz
NRC Harlingen, Texas

NRC Harlingen SELRES drilling at NAVSTA Ingleside reported to the SIMA building on the waterfront early Saturday morning ready to work on the various ship repair shops. Little did they know that on this particular drill weekend an all-out effort would be made to recruit some of them for the newly reserve mine sweeper ships.

"Mine hunting, mine neutralization, and mine sweeping? This is what you could be doing right now if you were a crew member aboard of one of our reserve ships," Captain Lou DeCuir, REDCOM South said as he addressed

prospective SELRES at the Mine Warfare Training Center's auditorium.

"Rate conversion offers excellent advancement opportunities, quality training with the best mine warfare equipment, plenty of MOB billets, challenge, and potential of ESWS qualifications. But you must be willing to study hard to pass exams, spend plenty of drill weekends at sea, and be willing to commute to Ingleside every month," Capt. DeCuir said.

"Ships need technically trained and qualified people. The deal for you is that you are likely to get promoted faster as a mine man than in your present rate," DeCuir said.

Several ship skippers present at the meeting also encouraged sailors to make the change to the MN rates and invited them to special ship tours aboard USS KINGFISHER and USS AVENGER for a hands-on view of the rate in action.

In addition, other sailors from NRC Harlingen will be making the trip again to Ingleside next drill weekend in efforts to convince some of them to change rates and join the new crews of these units.

For more information about this program, contact CAPT DeCuir at REDCOM South in Ft. Worth, Texas or call the Mine Warfare Office at NAVSTA Ingleside.

Sooner Sailors Celebrate Navy Birthday With 2nd Largest Ball

By JO1 Michael N. Ard

The Navy's 225th birthday was celebrated at a most appropriate place for Sooner Sailors, The National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center. More than 1,000 active, reserve, and



David Bialis (right), Vice Chair, Community Improvement/Education, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce presents Vice Admiral John B. Nathman, Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific, a bronze statue from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center. Photo by JO1 Michael N. Ard

retired Navy personnel, along with community dignitaries and Navy supporters celebrated the Navy's Birthday Oct. 14, making the event second only to Washington D.C.'s Navy Ball in attendance.

Ball guests had the opportunity to view the many galleries of paintings and sculpture honoring our nation's western culture before taking their places in the Grand Ballroom at the Cowboy Hall of

Fame.

David Bialis, Vice Chairman Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, welcomed the crowd by reading a proclamation from Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating making October 2000 "United States Navy Month."

The guest speaker, Vice Admiral John B. Nathman, Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific, received applause as he stated, "America needs to determine the value of military service they are willing to pay for."

The evening events included recognizing Sailors of the Year from the area Naval activities, the oldest and youngest active-duty Sailors, and an award presentation.



Vice Admiral John B. Nathman (left), COMNAVAIRPAC, and Captain John P. Keilty (right), Commander, Strategic Communications Wing One and Task Force 124, cut the Navy's 225th Birthday Cake with the youngest and oldest active duty Sailors attending the Navy Ball. Photo by Michael N. Ard

NRLSO Conducts Court-Room Strategy Sessions Via Internet

By Ens. Karin Burzynski
NIB Det 310, Corpus Christi

With the power and convenience of the Internet, Naval Reserve Legal Service Office III exceeds its mission of providing support for its new overseas gaining command with the design and implementation of a monthly e-mail-based training program.

Each month, NRLSO e-mails a hypothetical case along with a number of questions to be answered to its gaining command NLSO Europe/Southwest Asia. The active duty NLSO lawyers submit their analysis of the case and a suggested trial strategy. Then NRLSO lawyers consolidate and analyze the responses and come up with a "correct" answer

based on their experience and research, which is e-mailed back to NLSO EUR/SWA along with the next month's case.

Capt. (select) Steve White of Austin, NRLSO's commanding officer, said, "The response to the e-mail training

program has been great—the exchange of new ideas, legal theories, trial themes and strategies between attorneys has been beneficial to all."

Lt. Garrett Triplett, a labor and employment lawyer in Corpus Christi and a member of NRLSO III, said the benefits of the training include interaction and familiarity with the unit's active duty counterparts, as well as an impetus to keep abreast of military legal issues.

"The Internet training allows our unit to help our active duty counterparts regarding legal thinking and analysis and gives us an opportunity to interact with those people who we will work closely with during our AT periods," Triplett said.



Naval Reserve Legal Service Office III unit members proudly display Admiral Hugh Howell Jr. Award for Excellence. Pictured: in front, from left, PCCS Sharlene Sexton, Cmdr. Steve White, LN2 Cynthia Baumgardner; back, LN1 Pablo Garza, Lt. Cmdr. Keith Gould, LN1 Steven Nicols, Lt. Cmdr. Robert Arrambide, Lt. Porzienski. Photo by Ens. Karin Brznski

Not only does this training enhance the mission of the 15-member reserve unit, NRLSO III's efforts resulted in the Naval Reserve Judge Advocate General's Corps highest award, the Rear Admiral Hugh H. Howell Jr. Award of Excellence.

Southwest Sailor Needs a New Name - You Choose

As you all know, the Readiness Command received a new name 1 October 2000. We are now REDCOM South. We also picked up two new states, bringing the total to five. The states making up the region are Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. There is also now a Readiness Command known as REDCOM Southwest.

Because of the new names, our magazine name, "Southwest Sailor", is no longer appropriate.

We need a new name! Now is your chance to be creative and maybe win your "15-minutes of fame". Think about who we are geographically and nautically and come up with a name that reflects both, if possible. Send your ideas plus a little information about

yourself, including a picture, to: Public Affairs Officer, REDCOM South, Naval Air Station, Bldg. 11, 1803 Doolittle Ave, Ft. Worth, TX 76127. Or, e-mail the information to bockm@cnrf.nola.navy.mil.

The best entry will become the new name of our magazine, and you will get your name and photo in the March 2001 edition! Good luck!



The Army UH-1 Huey helicopter was a big hit with old and young alike. Photo by CDR Melody Bock



Above: The Army Color Guard from Ft. Polk leads the parade through downtown Orange, TX. Below: GM2 Antoinette Chavez (left), CRUITCOM Orange and HM1 Valerie Johnson (right), NRC Orange learn the "way it was" from Florence B. Wingate, a Third Class Yeoman in WWII assigned to NAS Dallas. Wingate is wearing her 1944 uniform. Photos by Gerald Burleigh



Above: John Coggins, a First Class Signalman in WWII, beams with pride as RADM Jose Betancourt awards him a long-overdue purple heart. Below: EN3 Scott Demeritt, USN explains the equipment onboard USS Kingfisher (MHC-56) to curious visitors. Photos by CDR Melody Bock



VETERANS



Above: BM1 Kathleen Reed, CHB-6, explains to a young visitor how they move cargo on and off ships using a working scale-model while BMC J. I. Muhl, also with CHB-6, looks on. Photo by CDR Melody Bock



Arlene Howland, a Navy Veteran, plays a haunting rendition of echo Taps with Second Class Storekeeper Donald Anderson. Anderson is a Navy Reservist with Naval Reserve Center Orange. Taps was written by Oliver Wilcox Norton, the bugler for Union General Daniel Adams Butterfield in July of 1862. Having lost 600 men in the bloody Seven Days battle, and himself wounded, General Butterfield asked his bugler to rewrite the French tune "Lights Out" to more appropriately honor his men. Taps became the official regulation call in 1874, and has been the standard at military funeral ceremonies since 1891. In echo Taps, the music is played line by line, with each line of the melody repeated, or echoed, by a second bugle before the next line is played. Top photo by Gerald Burleigh, bottom photo by CDR Melody Bock



Buddy Wolfford, a Third Class Boiler Tender on active duty from 1951-1954, listens to the celebration speeches. During the Korean War Wolfford was assigned to USS Small (DD-838) until it hit a mine, then he transferred to USS Kidd (DD-661). Photo by CDR Melody Bock

Below: USS Kingfisher (MHC-56) came from its homeport in Ingleside, TX to take part in the Veteran's Day celebration in Orange. In the foreground is one of the Center's two LCM-8s. Photo by CDR Melody Bock

